

Paper 2: Question 4

Whole sample response

In both sources, the skilled surfers are greatly admired; however in Source B they are admired distantly whereas the writer of Source A clearly views them as role models.

In Source A the author uses metaphor when comparing the surfers to 'bronzed gods'. The noun 'gods' implies the awe he felt watching them and that he saw them as omnipotent and perfect. The use of the adjective 'bronzed' which has connotations of wealth also emphasises their majesty. They has an immediate impact and the verb 'knew' emphasises the certainty with which the writer felt that he should become a surfer.

On the other hand, in Source B, the writer admires the surfers from a distance. The phrase 'They rode in majestically' has connotations of superiority and royalty, implying a distant yet intense admiration for the surfers' skill. The violent descriptions of the sea, such as the personification when the surfers face 'engulfment by the fierce breaker' also demonstrates her admiration of their bravery; however it also implies that she would be too scared to attempt it herself.

Both sources describe the atmosphere involved in surfing, although they focus on different aspects. In Source A it is clear the writer becomes very attached to and involved in the sport. Watching, he describes how 'it was almost as if I were on the board myself, paddling the swell, sliding into the wave, coming to my feet'. The use of listing here emphasises the detail of the involvement he felt just watching, implying a tense and dramatic atmosphere. On the other hand in Source B, the writer focuses on the physical atmosphere of the natural scenery, which she describes in the asyndetic triplet: 'The sun was so blue, the sunlight so soft, the air so sweet.' By not using 'and' the number of idyllic features is emphasised and repetition of 'so' emphasises their beauty. Adjectives such as 'sweet' and 'soft' also imply a gentle tranquillity, contrasting the action-packed atmosphere of Source A.

Finally, both writers describe their fear – however, Source A fears for himself and Source B for the surfers. In Source A, the exclamation 'I hadn't thought that far ahead yet!' implies sudden and overwhelming panic, induced by his lack of control over his board. Whereas in Source B, the writer recalls holding her 'breath in terror' thinking they were 'smothered or dashed to pieces.' The violent connotations of the verb 'dashed' create gruesome imagery to emphasise her fear. The hyperbolic action of 'I held my breath in terror' also emphasises her sudden shock and fear as it utterly stopped her in her tracks, even though it wasn't for herself.